

Application No.: 10/542,939
Atty. Docket No.: P70697US0

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-3 (Canceled).

4. (New) An ostomy support garment comprising a material providing support to a stoma and having a through-passing hole therein that is positioned over and has a perimeter sized to expose the stoma and a surrounding area when the garment is being worn, said hole perimeter having a stabilized edge that is provided with an element configured to allow the perimeter of the hole to be increased and decreased to enlarge and reduce, respectively, the exposed area surrounding the stoma, said material having at least one slit cut therethrough that adjoins the hole and splits said edge to enlarge said hole by opening said slit, and said element being configured to close the slit to reduce the perimeter of the hole.

5. (New) The garment as set forth in claim 4, wherein the element closing the slit is a lace placed in a passage at the edge of the hole, said passage being interrupted by the slit.

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6. (New) The garment as set forth in claim 4, wherein the element closing the slit is selected from the group consisting of zip-like fasteners, snaps, buckles, buttons, rings, and mating elements of hook and loop fastening material bridging the slit at the edge of the hole.

7. (New) The garment as set forth in claim 4, further comprising a pair of slits that each cut through the garment material and the stabilized edge.

8. (New) The garment as set forth in claim 7, wherein said pair of slits are positioned approximately opposite one another around the perimeter of the hole.

9. (New) The garment as set forth in claim 4, wherein the garment material is an elastic material to support the stoma and the element is an elastic lace threaded through a passage formed in said stabilized edge such that the size of the perimeter can be temporarily enlarged without unfastening the elastic lace.

10. (New) The garment as set forth in claim 8, wherein the stabilized edge includes a passage with openings adjacent each of

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the slits, said element including two cords respectively threaded through complementary parts of the passage and secured to one another when extended through the openings to fix the size of the hole perimeter.

11. (New) An ostomy support garment comprising a material providing support to a stoma and having a through-passing hole therein that is positioned over and has a perimeter sized to expose the stoma and a surrounding area when the garment is being worn, said hole perimeter having a stabilized edge that is provided with an element configured to cooperate with the stabilized edge to allow the perimeter to be increased to a size sufficient for an ostomy bag to be passed through the garment also to be reduced to more closely surround and provide support next to the stoma, said stabilized edge being split at least once by a slit that extends from the edge of the hole into the material to enlarge the hole by opening said slit, and said element being configured to close the slit to reduce the perimeter of the hole.

12. (New) The garment as set forth in claim 11, wherein the element closing the slit is a lace placed in a passage at the edge of the hole, said passage being interrupted by the slit.

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13. (New) The garment as set forth in claim 11, wherein the element closing the slit is selected from the group consisting of zip-like fasteners, snaps, buckles, buttons, rings, and mating elements of hook and loop fastening material bridging the slit at the edge of the hole.

14. (New) The garment as set forth in claim 11, further comprising a pair of slits that each cut through the garment material and the stabilized edge.

15. (New) The garment as set forth in claim 14, wherein said pair of slits are positioned approximately opposite one another around the perimeter of the hole.

16. (New) The garment as set forth in claim 11, wherein the garment material is an elastic material to support the stoma and the element is an elastic lace threaded through a passage formed in said stabilized edge such that the size of the perimeter can be temporarily enlarged without unfastening the elastic lace.

17. (New) The garment as set forth in claim 15, wherein the stabilized edge includes a passage with openings adjacent each of

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the slits, said element including two cords respectively threaded through complementary parts of the passage and secured to one another when extended through the openings to fix the size of the hole perimeter.